

Wheeling W. Va. Jan. 28th. 1889.

Hon. D. W. Fox Supt. U.S. Mint.

Philadelphia Pa.

Dear Sir:-Yours of the

25th. inst. came duly to hand, contents noted. I enclose four photographs of Mr. Alexander Squires, with his name endorsed; and he says he has already sent two to Your Mr. Gibson, which will make the six you want.

They are not exactly what you called for, "with his clothes on, which he wore when he arrived here, (Philda)". The clothes he then wore he threw away when he arrived here, or possibly at Philda, and now has a new suit of clothes, and part of his whiskers are taken off.

But he says his picture was taken by a young lady in the Mint, the day he was there, and it might perhaps be better for you to request her to make you a half-dozen copies, and he will pay for them, his acquaintances in California would be more apt to recognize that one than they would the one taken here, when he had his store clothes on.

I think he came on a vessel from the Isthmus, and wore his mining clothes, and as he has been living almost the life of a hermit for the last 25 or 30 years did not think of dressing up till it was suggested to him by some of his friends; and as he was partially paralized about a year ago, his mind is not very quick, but he is correct in what he does know. And I suppose it was his appearance that subjected him to insult and indignity at the hands of some "Smart Alex," in the Mint, for when he enquired for the "Supt", they sent him away about 7 squares to the Mayors office or Police Headquarters, where they treated him gently, and informed him of the trick which had been played upon him.

He will have no trouble in identifying himself here, for there are several people here who know him well, and the parties who can identify him here, can be identified and vouched for by the very best people here; and I think his identification as A. Squires of 1855, would be more satisfactory than his identification as A. Squires since say 1880,

But he is willing that you may make any test or enquiry that seems best to you, but if you are going to leave it to some other party would it be well to ask that other party what he will require?

What might be satisfactory to you might not be to the other party and thus time and money and labor would be lost.

He is apparently an eccentric genius, but is neither an imbecile nor a pauper, he has a good mind, and considerable means.

Strictly speaking he is not a "client" of mine, he merely applied to me as a U.S. Officer, to prepare his affidavits and bond, and with my signature and seal of office make the papers acceptable to you.

He gave me the following names and addresses of parties living in Cal. who would be likely to recognize his picture, and who have known him for a number of years, as a citizen of Cal.

Mr. Frank W. Peek. P.O. Makalumne Hill. Calaveras Co. Cal.

" Nathaniel Beal * * *

* Frederick Beals * * *

* Chas. Jacobs. * * *

Messrs Redick & Solinski. Attys. SanAndreas. * *

Judge Gotschalk. of Dist.Ct. * *

And Mr. Gorley. Supt. Water Co. Makalumne. * *

I have examined the case as carefully as I could, and have talked with parties who have known him more or less, intimately since 1840, and I am satisfied that he is the genuine claimant; and I know he will try to do anything you may desire, in order that you may be satisfied.

How would it do for him to give a Power of Atty. or a draft or some thing of that kind to some responsible party here, say a Bank, and have them endorse it so as to safe you harmless. And let them satisfy themselves here on the ground where he is known, of his genuineness?

Yours truly. Hannibal G. Orbs.
M. S. Bass

RG104 E-1 Box 155 Dec 1888 - Feb 1889

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Wheeling W. Va.
Jan 28. 1889

Hannibal Forbes

Relative to A. Squira
Encloses photographs.

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Hannibal Forbes
U.S. Comr.